

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6618

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, US, JA

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF SENATOR MANSFIELD'S NOMINATION AS
AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN

1. REPORTS OF SENATOR MANSFIELD'S APPOINTMENT AS
AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN AND SUBSEQUENT CONFIRMATION
BY SENATOR HAVE RECEIVED WIDESPREAD AND STRONGLY
FAVORABLE TREATMENT BY JAPANESE MEDIA.
MORNING EDITIONS APRIL 1 FEATURED BRIEF INTERVIEWS
SENATOR MANSFIELD GRANTED NIHON KEIZAI, MAINICHI AND
KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

2. MAIN POINTS OF INTERVIEW GIVEN NIHON KEIZAI ARE:
-- BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR POST, SENATOR MANSFIELD
WOULD CONSULT FORMER AMBASSADORS HODGSON AND REISCHAUER;
-- US-JAPAN RELATIONS WERE GOOD. SENATOR
MANSFIELD'S AUGUST 1976 REPORT, "THE END OF THE
POSTWAR ERA," THOROUGHLY EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS ON
PROPER STATE OF US-JAPAN RELATIONS;
-- JAPAN SHOULD PLAY A BIGGER ROLE IN WORLD,
AND PARTICULARLY SHOULD CONSIDER GIVING MORE ACTIVE
AID AND SUPPORT TO ASEAN;
-- SENATOR MANSFIELD HAD LONG FAVORED REVISION
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OF UN CHARTER TO PERMIT JAPANESE PERMANENT SEAT ON
SECURITY COUNCIL;

-- DUE TO CHINESE INSISTENCE ON INCLUSION
OF HEGEMONY CLAUSE, JAPAN-CHINA PFT WAS STILL PENDING,
BUT BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE GOOD;

-- SENATOR MANSFIELD HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED
US TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM ROK WITH PRESIDENT. HE

SUPPORTED THE POLICY AND THOUGHT IT COMPLETELY
CORRECT THAT CONSULTATIONS ON WITHDRAWALS BE HELD WITH GOJ;

-- SENATOR MANSFIELD DID NOT KNOW DETAILS OF
NUCLEAR REPROCESSING DISPUTE, OR WHETHER IT COULD BE
QUICKLY RESOLVED. HE WOULD ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH
PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTIONS;

-- SENATOR MANSFIELD WOULD NOT COMMENT ON
US-JAPAN TRADE IMBALANCE (E.G., JAPANESE TV EXPORTS)
UNTIL HE WAS FULLY BRIEFED ON CARTER-FUKUDA EXCHANGES
AND USG POSITION.

3. KYODO NEWS SERVICE REPORTED SENATOR MANSFIELD AS
SAYING THAT COLOR TV EXPORT, NUCLEAR REPROCESSING
AND JAPANESE ACCESS TO US 200-MILE FISHING ZONE
QUESTIONS COULD ALL BE SETTLED AMICABLY. HE THOUGHT
PRESIDENT WOULD GIVE APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION TO
JAPANESE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING NEEDS. REGARDING
US-CHINA RELATIONS, SENATOR MANSFIELD NOTED HIS
ADVOCACY OF SO-CALLED "JAPANESE FORMULA." HE
ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ABOUT
JAPANESE DEFENSE CAPABILITY THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE
FORCED UPON JAPAN. OTHER POINTS IN KYODO INTERVIEW, AND
MAINICHI INTERVIEW AS WELL, PARALLELED NIHON KEIZAI STORY.
SHOESMITH

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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